



Washoe Education Association Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE....

- Retiree Recognition ...pg. 3
- Special Session? ...pg. 3
- Budgetary Issues ...pg. 4
- WCSD COVID 19 Committees ...pg. 4
- Communication Survey ...pg. 4
- NBCT Celebration ...pg. 5
- Calendar Handbook ...pg. 5
- New Members ...pg. 6
- Early Enrollment ...pg. 6
- WEA SUMmer Hours ...pg. 6

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 5th

Last day of school
End of Grading Period

July 9th

Peimary Election Day

July 30th

New Teacher Breakfast

August 3rd

Building Rep Kickoff (Information will be sent out to Reps around July 20)

August 4th

First Day for Teachers

August 10th

First Day for Students

September 2nd

Building Rep Council

September 7th

Labor Day (WEA Closed)

September 12th

Wild Island Picnic

A Few Highlights of the 2019-2020 Roller Coaster School Year.

Natha Anderson/ WEA President

The WEA Awards Banquet is an event I look forward to every year. It is a time to celebrate our Retirees, award winners and our year in review. The reflections of the 2019-2020 school year, however, is an incredibly important (and at time empowering) exercise to celebrate the work of WEA and our members.

The school year started with some turmoil with the departure of our past Superintendent. Interim Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill recognized the difficulties from this, wanted to help our community heal and was/is concerned about staff morale. She created a Pathway to Progress to address the issues by engaging in “sit and listen” conversations as well as other avenues to increase the communication between the WCSD Leadership and employees. WEA has a very strong relationship with Dr. McNeill and her leadership team as we can agree/disagree in a collaborative way. This trust and understanding as well as how she handled the sudden school closures were factors in the decision for the WEA Board of Directors to write a letter of support for Dr. McNeill to become the permanent Superintendent for WCSD. We were not the only ones to see how compassionate, organized, and professional Dr. McNeill is in her role as Superintendent and look forward to working with her and her leadership team in the coming years.

Negotiations/Bargaining for the New Contract: The incredible bargaining team of Tom Stauss (WEA Executive Director), Fran McGregor (WEA VP/Depaoli MS), Mary Owens (WEA Board of Directors/GT Program), Kenny Baker (McQueen HS) and Leticia Lopez (Greenbrae ES) met as a team for numerous hours in addition to the bargaining sessions with the WCSD Negotiations Team. We were successful in bargaining for the 3% Legislature funded pay increase for 2019-2020 school year and a possible 1% pay increase for 2020-2021 (we will know about the 1% in November, 2020). A few other highlights can be found in the WEA Handbook (www.weatoday.org/20-21-Handbook).

Board Members and Building Reps.: WEA is a member run organization – and the members who run it are the dedicated Board of Directors and Building Reps. The Board of Directors are all full-time educators who work all day in addition to the WEA work/discussions for up to three (or

continued on page 2



The WEA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WashoeEducationAssociation) is the best place to find up to date information on the WEA. Like and Follow us to stay informed about issues that impact you.

A Few Highlights of the 2019-2020 Roller Coaster School Year. (cont.)

continued from page 1

more) hours about twice a week. Our Board Family has very candid discussion the issues facing us in education. Since the closure of the physical schools their dedication to our profession and fellow educators has been important as we continue to meet often (not to mention the almost daily emails).

Our Building Reps are strong advocates for our profession throughout the year. Our monthly Rep meetings have almost 90 people attend every month and has included robust discussions with representatives of the WCSD. One of the items I love about our Rep meetings is how we are dealing with universal issues, not “just” an Elementary School or “just” a Secondary or “just” a Special Ed issue – it impacts all of us and the Rep meetings have created an opportunity for us to learn/commiserate/celebrate with each other. There are some of our Building Reps who will be retiring/moving this year who have been incredibly active as committee members/directors/WEA officers. We will miss Tracy Cecil (Beasley), Jessica Fralick (AACT), Dana Galvin (TOSA, Past WEA President, NSEA Board member, DA/RA delegate and numerous committees), Kathy Howard (Sparks HS, WCSD Insurance Committee, Awards Committee and DA/RA Delegate), Jasper Isenberg (AACT, WEA Board of Directors), Mary Lamont (Alice Smith, WEA-WCSD PAR Committee), Janine Luciani (Stead ES) and Margaret “Peg” Spence (Palmer ES).

We have numerous committees which met throughout the year – Membership Committee, Profes-

sional Development, Special Ed/SLP, Early Leadership Institute (ELI), Government Relations (GR), Awards, and starting the Social Media Committee. A quick highlight of a few:

Membership Committee: Because of the dedication from our WEA Board, WEA Reps, WEA membership Committee, WEA members and WEA Staff we had 264 new members join WEA for a total of 2564 members. We were able to visit more than 40 schools before outbreak to meet with members. The membership committee, led by WEA VP Fran McGregor, sponsored numerous socials where members were able to talk with each other and get to know each other.

Special Ed/SLP Committee: Led by Dr. Kimberly Smerkers-Bass (Gomm) and Virginia Coffee (Sparks HS) the Special Ed – Speech Language Pathologist Committee has been meeting about every two or three weeks. Since the Distance Learning has occurred there are numerous items regarding the disproportionate expectations placed on the shoulders of our Special Ed Educators and our Speech Language Pathologist. Due to federal legislation, the Special Ed teams are still expected to provide the same amount of services to the students, an unrealistic task when faced with the realities of time, materials, and student buy-in. Looking ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, the committee has already planned on meeting the second Wed. of every month. More information will be announced at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Through the year, our WEA Staff has been incredible. In the last 12

weeks, our (virtual) Office Manager Earl Spriggs has done so much for our members. His willingness and enthusiasm in stepping up to help members has been amazing. He often takes an idea and makes into a reality within hours. WEA Executive Director Tom Stauss has basically been a one-man office – defending members in grievances, dealing with contract issues, transfers, evaluations not to mention the three or four daily meetings with WCSD discussions around this and next school year. I have been a part of most of these meetings as well, so I get the chance to see his commitment in advocating for educators.

What has been truly inspiring, however, are the numerous social media posts highlighting our members and the work they continue to do in conditions which are challenging (to put it mildly). From a Special Ed teacher who drove to one of her students’ house just to check in as she saw he was pulling away, to the excitement of having a stuffed animal zoom party in a kindergarten class, to the 7:30 at night phone call with a student a high school counselor had not heard from, and so many other highlights – the dedication of educators for our kids and community makes me proud to say I am a teacher and the president of the WEA.

On behalf of the WEA, **THANK YOU** to each of you and we hope you have a safe and relaxing summer break.

Thank you to more than 1,150 years of educating the students of our community.

The educators who will be retiring this year have dedicated more than 1,150 years to our students, our schools, our profession, and our community. The emotional goodbye was made even more difficult as none of us wanted to end the school year the way we had to due to the Health Crisis, and were not able to celebrate at our Retirement/Awards Banquet as we have done in the past and would have preferred to do this year. Thank you to our retirees. You will be missed. The list of the retirees as of 5/25/2020:

Michele Alegria
 Karen Bennett
 Michael Byrnes
 Marguerite Camino Stallworth
 Tracy Cecil
 Sabrina Cellucci
 Michelle Chavez Peirce
 Deborah Childree
 Loren Cowen
 Brian Crosby
 Theresa Crowley
 Linda Curtis
 Kevin Davidson
 Cheryl Doetch
 Jayme Drescher
 Catherine Fronk

Dana Galvin
 Theodore Gray
 Jo Ann Hainline
 Kathryn Howard
 Janice Jamison
 Lori Kahl
 Ruth Kareck
 Mary Lamont
 Denise Lester
 Janine Luciani
 Jessica Martin
 Marvin Mercer
 Rodger Moore
 Jennifer Morgan
 Rebecca Morrison
 Lori O'Connor

Cheryl Pregal
 Loretta Rende
 Janice Rock
 Debe Rougeau
 Peter Schouweiler
 Margaret Spence
 Jennifer Streshley
 Edwina Thomas
 Nancy Thomas
 Michael Thompson
 Jim Torvinen
 Jonathan Vial
 Susan Walker
 Denise Webster
 Rita Whitaker Haun
 Mandy Webster

Special Session for Busted Budget?

Phillip Kaiser / WEA Secretary

The economic impact of the policies intended to slow the spread of the COVID virus have been dramatic. As businesses have closed and individuals have been asked to shelter-at-home, the revenues to state and local governments have cratered. The governor and the Interim Finance Committee of the legislature have moved to use the Rainy-Day fund to plug the hole in the state's budget, but it will not be enough. Federal funds for states could help provide some support, but at this point the budget situation looks grim.

It is in light of this "fiscal emergency" that some have called on the governor to call a special session of the legislature. Money for K-12 education comes primar-

ily from the Distributive School Account (DSA). State Senator Kieckhefer was quoted in the *Nevada Appeal* May 11, as saying, "Transfer the DSA money, spend down the ending fund balance and the Rainy-Day funds and we're still in the red."

Although a special session has not yet been scheduled, some folks speculate that it could happen in mid to late June. This would be after school is out for the summer, which could make it difficult to contact educators to let you know what is going on in Carson City.

We know from the Great Recession of 2008 that drastic cuts could result in harmful school district budget decisions including pay freezes, furlough days, class-size increases, etc. WCSD policy 1310

addresses using school district equipment (which would include school district emails) for political purposes. In order to keep you informed about the potential for cuts to education, as well as to provide information to you on how you can be involved in contacting and influencing our elected officials and policy makers, we need your home email address. We need them to hear the voice of educators. Please complete the survey referenced in the "Summer Break Communications" section of this edition of the WEA Today, to have your personal email address added to the Educator2Legislature list.

Budgetary Issues and Impacts On The Contract

Tom Stauss/ WEA Executive Director

As most of you are aware, the current WCSD/WEA contract is for the period of July, 2019 to July, 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis and the expected significant shortfall in revenues from the State of NV for the 2020-2021 school year (some estimates range from \$1B to \$2B), there is the possibility that the Governor will call a Special Session of the NV Legislature. If there is a Special Session, there is a possibility the contract could be re-opened for discussions

regarding changes in compensation articles. If this were to occur, and if the WEA were to determine that compensation changes were unavoidable, the WEA will focus on changes that will have the least impact on our members. Before any concessions were agreed to, however, we would review existing revenues and expenditures, savings resulting from the recent closure of schools, and current as well as potential federal stimulus aide provided to WCSD.

Because there is a possibility the contract will be re-opened,

we are asking that you provide us with your personal email address (see request process in “Summer Break Communications” in this edition of the WEA). This would be voluntary on your part. The purpose of this request is so we can provide information to you during the summer and receive information back from you, as needed, and outside of a WCSD email address.

Reopening of Schools: WCSD COVID-19 Committees

As you may be aware, there are numerous WCSD committees and sub-committees reviewing and evaluating issues related to the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the 2020-2021 school year. The WEA requested and was approved to have numerous representatives on these committees. We thank those WEA members who are serving in this capacity. The com-

mittees are reviewing topics such as curriculum, distance learning, safety, work-year schedules, facilities and transportation, impacts on the contract, etc. The work of these committees will be forwarded to the WCSD Board of Trustees for review and final approval.

Because the 2020-2021 school year is right around the corner, and because decisions have to be made

quickly, committees are meeting multiple times each week. As a part of this committee work, we have and will continue to stress that the number one priority of decisions being considered and made is the **safety** of our students and educators.

Summer Break Communications

The WEA understands how important it is to get some distance from work duties over the Summer Break in order to recharge. In order to help keep our members apprised of important developments over the next couple of months, we ask that you fill out a quick survey to provide us with a personal email address so that you do not need to check your WCSD email account for updates.

Updates for political events/legislative session if one is called for by the Governor will be sent out to members through the Educator2Legislator list. Please indicate on the survey if you would like be included on both email lists.

[Summer Contact Survey](#)

Celebration of our 2019 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) Educators

On Wednesday March 11th WEA and WCSD celebrated the 2019 NBCT educators who were newly certified and those who renewed their National Boards. The 45 educators who were newly certified and the 9 who renewed went through an incredibly difficult two-year journey to earn their NBCT classification, one which many of their family members, friends and coworkers went through with them. The process shows an incredible commitment to our profession as they become stronger educators and leaders. The investment in our craft of NBCT is something WEA has advocated for since the early 1990s. We have been able to collectively bargain for an 8% increase in pay (higher than the 5% which is in state law), bargain for two days dedicated to work on the NBCT testing/portfolio, offer an interest free loan for our members to participate in the program and work closely with the NBCT Cohort Coordinator Jamie Whistler. Congratulations to our WEA members!

Newly Certified

Lindsay Amini	Selena La Rue Hatch
Michelle Blincoe	Kylie Maddy
Katherine Broughton	Rebekah Mileo
Ruby Burnley	Christin O'Keefe
Johnna Campbell	Marie Ramsey
Bonnie Carlson	Danielle Springmeyer
Chase Carpenter	Amanda Stark
Amy Chatowsky	Natalie Wall
Kathryn Fitzpatrick	Ann Warren
Kimberly Garman	Anna Williams
Rod Hearn	Elena Willoughby
Sonia Kretschmer	Alyson Wilson

Renewals

Gillian Bartlett
 Barbara Barker
 Natalia Cui-Callahan
 Elizabeth (Bette) Korinek
 Matthew Ochs
 Kira Temple



WEA Calendar Handbook 2020-2021

Every school year WEA provides a Handbook to our members which includes a monthly calendar, important information and a list of our endorsed companies. We usually distribute this to all our members and the new WCSD teachers, counselors, Speech language Pathologists, Schools Nurses, OT/PTs, Deans and School Librarians in late August/early September. In an effort to save paper (as well as expense), WEA will **NOT** be printing a copy for every member, instead we have posted it on our website (www.weatoday.org/20-21-Handbook) and will provide a hard copy of the handbook for every building rep, new hire and other members who request it. If you would like a Handbook Calendar, please let your building rep know following the August Rep Kickoff so we can have it for you in September. If you do not know who your Building Rep is you can find it on the WEA Website at www.weatoday.org/whos-my-rep/ or please contact Earl Spriggs (earl.spriggs@nsea-nv.org) and he will get you the information.

Welcome, New Members!

Martha Aguilar Donner Springs	Cindy Griffin Wooster	Jessica Mekelburg Smithridge	Amy Sheets Vaughn
Amanda Applewhite Vaughn	Patsy Harrill-Bollman Palmer	Tina Midbow Smithridge	Bernadette Skerritt Palmer
Heather Cesinger Pine	Alison Hatjakes Reno	Jennifer Montrose Gomes	Michelle Stephens Alice Smith
Dallas Cossette Beasley	Jan Houk Health Services	Kathryn Nightingale Spanish Springs ES	Deanna Ta Mitchell
Rachel Cowell Reno	Meredith Ladich Caughlin Ranch	Rachel Oregon Traner	Rachel Tillotson Galena
Michelle Cramer Sun Valley	Melissa Larsen Damonte Ranch	James Pace Reno	Isla Vizcarra Lincoln Park
Kelsey Daum Reno	Sandra Leis Health Services	Geoffrey Phillips Hug	Cathy Wagner Mendive
Ivanka Dill Sparks HS	Vanessa Lopez Picollo	Marisa Pimental Wooster	Minda Welch Double Diamond
Timothy Elam Hug	Julie Lucas Plumb Lane	Heidi Pitts Allen	Kelly Wilson Sun Valley
Chloe Evans Melton	Jessica Mack Dodson	Peshal Powning Vaughn	Tom Wortman Caughlin Ranch
Kadie Freeman Sky Ranch	Jordyn Malmed Natchez	Eric Rogers Melton	Katherine Zysk Pine
Jonathan Gentner Sparks HS	Joyce Martin Anderson	Teresa Ross Anderson	
Michael Gilmore Juniper	Amanda McBride Picollo	Kylie Satter Mathews	
Scott Gorsuch Damonte Ranch	Charly McKenna Bennett	Jennifer Segura Veterans	
David Gray O'Brien	Theresa McKillip Innovations	Kiery Segura Reed	

Early Enrollment Program

Just a reminder than now though the end of August, 2020, our non-member friends can join the WEA and not begin paying dues until September, 2020. Now is a good time to reach out to educators who might have an interest in joining. Thank you for your efforts in recruiting new members into our association. We stand stronger when we all stand together.

Details can be found on the WEA websites at www.weatoday.org/early-enrollment

WEA Summer Hours

Please note that due to the COVID-19 crisis, the WEA Office will be open on Tuesday and Friday of each week, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM during the summer break. Wild Island and movie tickets can be purchased during these dates and times. In addition, staff will be available by phone or email. For appointments outside of the above office schedule, please call 775-393-2967.

Hoping you all have a great, relaxing, and safe summer.



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WEA Today is published four times per year to inform, educate and entertain the members of Washoe Education Association. We urge readers to write letters to the editor on matters of concern. Letters should be mailed to WEA Today Editor at 1890 Donald Street, Reno, NV, 89502. All letters must be signed and include phone number; however, anonymity will be granted if deemed necessary. We reserve the right to edit for length or libelous comments. It would be appreciated if letters were typed, but neatly handwritten copies are accepted.